

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 IO-13 /048 W  
-----052675 252323Z /65

R 251318Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3474  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 2386

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SREF, PROR, GW, CZ  
SUBJECT: GERMAN EMIGRATION FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA

REF: BONN 13237

1. CHARGE AND CONOFF HAVE RECENTLY DISCUSSED QUESTION OF EMIGRATION OF ETHNIC GERMANS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA WITH FRG DCM GIESDER AND FRG CONOFF. HIGHLIGHTS OF LATTER'S REMARKS FOLLOW.

2. FRG CONOFF NOTED THAT FRG-GOC AGREEMENT OF 1974 ON EMIGRATION MATTERS IS GENERALLY WORKING WELL. HE BELIEVES THAT MAIN REASON FOR SMALL NUMBER OF RECENT APPLICATIONS OF EMIGRATION TO FRG (ONLY 19 CASES WERE PROCESSED IN JULY) IS CURRENT GERMAN  
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UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM. GIESDER POINTED OUT THAT "VIRTUALLY ALL THE HARD CORE CASES" OF ETHNIC GERMANS DETERMINED TO EMIGRATE FROM CSSR HAD ALREADY BEEN RESOLVED. THOSE WHO WISH TO GO NOW ARE LESS CERTAIN WHETHER THEY WISH TO TAKE ON THE CHALLENGES OF FREE ENTERPRISE COMPETITIVENESS THAT THEY WOULD FACE IN THE FRG.

3. GEISDER INDICATED THAT WHEN FRG FIRST ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF ETHNIC GERMANS WISHING TO LEAVE CZECHSLOVAKIA--DURING THE HEYDAY OF OSTPOLITIK--BONN CALCULATED THAT ABOUT 25,000 OF A TOTAL OF 78,000 (74,000 IN CZECH LANDS AND 4,000 IN SLOVAKIA) PROBABLY WOULD WANT TO EMIGRATE. GIESDER SAID CSSR, FOR ITS PART, ESTIMATED A TOTAL OF 3,000. AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH RED CROSS OFFICIALS OF BOTH FRG AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA, FRG EMBASSY HERE REDUCED ITS ESTIMATES TO ABOUT 8,000 POTENTIAL APPLICANTS. OF THESE, APPROXIMATELY 2,500 HAVE LEFT. THUS, FRG EMBASSY BELIEVED PERHAPS 5,000 TO 5,500 MIGHT STILL WISH TO DEPART. RECENT EFFORTS BY THE RED CROSS TO "CONFIRM" THE NUMBER OF WOULD-BE EMIGRES THROUGH THE USE OF QUESTIONNAIRES, HOWEVER, HAVE RESULTED IN A FIGURE OF ABOUT 2,600 "CONFIRMED APPLICANTS" ACCORDING TO FRG EMBASSY. GIESDER NOTED THAT MANY POTENTIAL EMIGRES ARE DOUBTLESS AFRAID TO EXPRESS THEIR FIEWS ON A QUESTIONNAIRE. THE CSSR FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS BEEN HINTING, MEANWHILE, THAT THERE MAY BE ABOUT 2,000 STILL DESIRING TO EMIGRATE. IN FRG-CZECHOSLOVAK CONSULTATIONS, SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER, GIESDER EXPECTS AN EFFORT TO FURTHER NARROW THE ESTIMATE OF THOSE WHO WISH TO EMIGRATE.

3. WHILE FRG EMBASSY HERE DOES NOT CONSIDER EMIGRATION PROBLEM A MAJOR ISSUE ANY LONGER, GIESDER SAID HE OFTEN DRAWS CZECHOSLOVAKS ATTENTION TO CONTRAST BETWEEN THEIR FORCIBLE EXPULSION OF SOME 3,000,000 SUDETEN GERMANS AFTER THE WAR AND THEIR CURRENT FOOT-DRAGGING IN ROSOLVING CASES OF A FEW CONFIDENTIAL

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THOUSAND WHO WISH TO LEAVE VOLUNTARILY. GIESDER STRESSED THAT BONN HAS NEVER WANTED TO STIR UP TROUBLE OVER THE EMIGRE PROBLEM, BUT HAS SIMPLY SOUGHT TO ENSURE AN OBJECTIVE COUNTING OF THOSE WHO TRULY DESIRE TO EMIGRATE AND A REASONABLE EFFORT TO PERMIT THEIR DEPARTURE.

4. COMMENT: WE WONDER WHETHER REASON FOR NUMBER OF "ILLEGAL EMIGRANTS" CITED PARA 2 REFTTEL MAY BE THAT SOME WHP ARE NOT CONSIDERED ETHNIC GERMANS BY CSSR WHEN THEY APPLY FOR PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE ARE, IN FACT, ACCEPTED BY FRG AS GERMAN REFUGEES. THIS SEEMS POSSIBLE, SINCE A VERY LARGE PERCENTAGE OF SUDETEN GERMANS HAVE INTERMARRIED WITH CZECHOSLOVAKS AND THEIR ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY BLURRED.  
FROWICK

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POPULATION MOVEMENTS, EMIGRANTS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009